

Fort Sheridan Quartermaster Stable
(Veterinary Hospital, Building No. 38)
West side of Lyster Rd.
Fort Sheridan
Lake County
Illinois

HABS No. IL-1113-12

HABS
ILL,
49-FTSH,
1/12-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. IL-1113-12

FORT SHERIDAN, QUARTERMASTER STABLES
(Veterinary Hospital, Building No. 38)

HABS ILL, 49-FTSH, 1/12-

FORT SHERIDAN HISTORIC DISTRICT

Location: Located on the west side of Lyster Road between another Quartermaster Stable (Building No. 80) on the south and Work Shops (Building No. 36) on the north. Fort Sheridan, Lake County, Illinois.

USGS Highland Park Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 16. 432700. 4673780.

Present Owner
and Occupant: United States Army.

Present Use: Post Office.

Significance: The building was designed by Holabird and Roche as Quartermaster Stables but was utilized for many years as a Veterinary Hospital. It has a distinctive design which is different from the other stables on the post and makes a notable addition to the comprehensiveness of the surviving building stock at Fort Sheridan. The attractive appearance and decorative detail is illustrative of the importance of the horse in the pre-World War I army.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1890.
2. Architect: Holabird and Roche, Chicago.
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Army from date of construction to the present.
4. Contractor: John A. Reichelt and Company, Chicago.
5. Original plan and construction: The building is constructed of buff-cream brick and is T-shaped. The front rectangular block has a gable roof which runs north-south. The rear wing has a hipped roof running east-west. While the building was designated by Holabird and Roche as Quartermaster Stables its form differs markedly from that of the other stables designed by that firm, and its use as a veterinary hospital may have been intended from the start.

6. Alterations and additions: Building records indicate that in 1918 the building was used as a Veterinary Hospital and a steam boiler plant was installed. In 1945 the interior was remodeled to serve as the Post Exchange Cafeteria. In recent years the building has been used as a United States Post Office.

On the exterior, a concrete loading dock has been constructed at the south end of the main building. A one-story concrete block addition has been added inside the T on the north side. Loft doors above the main entrances in the facade and the rear wing have been infilled with a pink-red brick. Other doors and windows have been modified. The tin roof has been replaced with asphalt shingles.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Original architectural drawings:

Center for Cartographic and Architectural Archives, Record Group 77, Miscellaneous Forts File, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C. Floor plans, manuscript, 1888. Reproduced plans and elevations. 1888.

Holabird and Root, 300 West Adams St., Chicago, Illinois. 60606. Plans and elevations, 1889. Drawings are water damaged.

2. Old views:

Mackern, H. G. Fort Sheridan: At Attention and Rest, Chicago, H. G. Mackern, 1897.

Views of Fort Sheridan, ca. 1897, Record Group 92, Audio Visual Archives, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C. Reference Nos. 92-F-61B-6, 92-F-61B-7.

3. Bibliography:

Papers Relating to Fort Sheridan. Office of the Quartermaster General Consolidated Correspondence Files, 1784-1915 and Office of the Quartermaster General, Construction Division, Record Group 92. (contains specifications). National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C.

Real Property Records, Directorate of Facilities Engineering, Fort Sheridan, Illinois.

Prepared by Sally Kress Tompkins
Architectural Historian
Historic American
Buildings Survey
June 1979

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: A distinctive brick building designed by Holabird and Roche with raked parapets, projecting loft gables, pentagonal shed dormers and cupolas. It reflects the influence of the Richardsonian Romanesque style popular at the time of its construction and is one of the more elaborate buildings at Fort Sheridan.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.
2. Description of Exterior:
 1. Over-all dimensions: The building is one-and-one-half stories high with five bays across the facade. It consists of a front block, 34'-3" by 71'-6" and a rear wing, 83' by 39'-9". A concrete loading dock on the south side is 10'-9" by 15'-6".
 2. Foundations: Limestone rubble.
 3. Wall construction, finish, and color: Buff-cream brick laid in common bond with four rows of stretchers to one of headers. A string course of alternating projecting and recessed brick on edge below a projecting stretcher course encircles the front block.
 4. Structural system: Brick bearing wall. Wood trussed rafter roof.
 5. Chimneys: One brick interior chimney on the south gable end and one brick exterior chimney inside the T on the north side.
 6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The entrance on the facade has double glass doors with sidelights and a transom. The transom is green with the words UNITED STATES POST OFFICE FORT SHERIDAN ILLINOIS 60037 in white. The doors are flanked by projecting brick buttresses topped with slanted stone caps. Above the doors is a brick soldier course.

On the rear of the building the original entrance with a segmental gauged brick arch has been modified to form a double window and partially infilled with a pink-red brick. A new rear entrance was obtained by modifying the window immediately to the south of the original entrance. This entrance has a wood door with a single light.

On the north side of the rear wing a segmental arched entrance has been squared off and partially infilled with brick. The present door is wood with a single light. A similar entrance on the opposite side of the wing has been modified to form a double window. A double doorway has been cut through on the south side of the front block where a window had been. It provides access to the loading dock.

The concrete block addition has one entrance. It is located on the north side and has a plain wood door with no glazing.

In the projecting gable above the main entrance in the facade a stone sill and lintel mark the area that was once a loft door. It has been infilled with pink-red brick. Above this is a gauged brick arch with an extrados archivolt formed by alternating projecting and recess brick on edge and a row of projecting headers. The tympanum is decorated with a checker board pattern of alternately projecting and recessed headers. The entire arrangement is repeated on the rear facade of the wing with a few variations. The ridge of the roof runs east-west here and is hipped at the end. The loft door above the original rear entrance has been infilled with an orange-red brick and in the tympanum the sawed off end of the loft post remains in place.

- b. Windows: The windows are formed by segmental, gauged brick arches. They are one-over-one light double hung sash.

There are two windows on each side of the entrance on the facade. Originally the north and south sides of the front block had three windows on the first level and two on the loft level. On the south side the central of the three windows on the first level was modified to form a door to the loading dock. The fenestration on the north side of the rear wing remains as it was originally, six windows, three on each side of the entrance. On the south side of the wing the fenestration has been altered. The central entrance is now a double window and a new window has been cut through on the western extremity and the window next to it infilled with brick.

The window frames are painted a peach color. Some of the windows are covered with wire grills also painted a peach color.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The main building has a gable roof with the ridge running north-south. The wing has a hipped roof with the ridge running east-west. The roof is covered with asbestos shingles. There are raked parapets with terra cotta coping on the gable ends of the main building.
- b. Dormers, cupolas: Flanking the central gable on the facade are pentagonal shed roofed dormers each having one single light window. The dormers have asbestos shingle roofs and copper siding. Running along the wing there are dormers on each side. They have hipped roofs and are covered entirely with cement asbestos shingles. Each one contains a single sash window, with one light.

There is one cupola above the central gable on the facade and two along the ridge of the roof of the wing. They have pyramidal roofs and are boarded up on the sides with wood that has been painted a peach color. There is a metal ventilator on the ridge of the roof of the wing.

8. Other features: A bronze plaque on the northeast corner of the facade reads: "Originally Constructed as a Veterinary Hospital, 1890."

C. Description of Interior:

The interior has been extensively remodeled to serve the needs of the post office. A brick wall 12" thick separating the front block of the building from the rear wing remains. The wall contains three segmentally arched doorways formed by triple rowlocks. The bricks are painted an off white. The rest of the main floor has been completely renovated. There is linoleum tile on the floors and acoustical tile on the ceiling. Cinder blocks have been used to partition some of the area.

The loft remains in its original condition. The wood floor boards measure 5-1/2" across. An arched brick doorway between the loft area in the front block and that in the rear wing has sliding doors. The doors, constructed of diagonal boards with horizontal and vertical battens, and the sliding mechanism appear to be original. Two wooden oat bins constructed of vertical tongue and groove boards remain in place over the rear wing.

D. Site:

The building faces east with the ridge of the roof on the front block running north-south. It is situated on the west side of Lyster Road between a Quartermaster Stable (Building No. 80) and Work Shops (Building No. 36).

Prepared by Sally Kress Tompkins
Architectural Historian
Historic American
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PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) under the auspices of Interagency Archeological Services, Atlanta and funded by the U.S. Department of Army, Fort Sheridan, Illinois. It included a historical and architectural survey of the fort to provide the necessary data for implementation of the Fort Sheridan Historic District. Documentation was obtained on thirty-one buildings. The survey and documentation were accomplished by Sally Kress Tompkins, an architectural historian on the HABS staff, under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS; Kenneth Anderson, Principal Architect; Carolyn Pitts, Principal Historian, and Allen Chambers, architectural historian and editor. The photographs were taken by William Kumpf of Architectural Camera, Chicago.

ADDENDUM TO
FORT SHERIDAN, VETERINARY HOSPITAL (BUILDING NO. 38)
Fort Sheridan Historic District
West Side of Lyster Road
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